

Dr. Burgess Weekly Address December 29, 2017

Year in Review: 2017

Hello, this is your Congressman Michael Burgess.

Last year at this time, I spoke to you about the hope I had as we marked the beginning of a new Administration, a new Congress, and a new outlook in Washington. Now as we reflect on 2017, I would like to take this opportunity to look back at the year's work and accomplishments.

At the end of each year, I publish a report that details how my staff and I are serving the 26th District and detail legislative accomplishments on issues that are important to you. Here is a short snapshot of this report.

One of the most important things I do is communicate with you – the constituents of the 26th District – about how Congress can best serve you and your families. This year, through emails, letters, phone calls, and faxes, I heard more than **80,000** ideas and concerns from North Texans. I held town halls both in person and on the telephone to hear from constituents on key issues affecting them, such as health care and tax reform.

In addition, my office provided support to almost **500** constituents in the form of a Congressional inquiry in order to address an issue or concern with a federal agency. For example, my office was able to provide assistance to constituents with inquiries to the Social Security Administration, the Department of Veterans Affairs, the Internal Revenue Service, and United States Citizenship and Immigration Services – and find solutions for these constituents.

On the legislative side, I was involved in crafting several key bills – including efforts to improve American health care, reauthorize key public health programs, and provide oversight to existing federal agencies, such as the Department of Defense. In addition, other pieces of legislation have passed the House and are awaiting action in the Senate, including a bill to improve access to maternity care, and amendments that will help combat the opioid crisis wreaking havoc on communities in North Texas and across the country.

In Congress, I serve on the Energy and Commerce Committee, the Rules Committee, and the Helsinki Commission. This year, I assumed the role of Chairman of the Subcommittee on Health. In this position, I chaired **19** subcommittee hearings on important health issues and advanced key legislation. Six of my bills have been passed out of the Health Subcommittee, and five of my bills have passed out of the full Energy and Commerce Committee.

Thank you for taking the time to hear this brief snapshot of the past year. For a full overview, please review my End of the Year Report, available at burgess.house.gov.

As we head into 2018, I have great hope for what we can accomplish in the second half of the 115th Congress. As your Representative, I am looking forward to another year of working on behalf of the 26th District and the issues that matter to you. Above all, I wish you and your family a bright and joyous New Year.

As always, I appreciate your comments and your concerns on this issue or any other issue. May God bless you and your family, and as the song says, God bless you Texas.